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ABSTRACT

Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) conducted campus-wide surveys on drug and alcohol use in 1977, 1983, 1987, and 1992. This survey was generated during the 1992 Fall semester. Results show that alcohol and drug use at MTSU has changed little in 15 years. The most noticeable change was the reduced use of marijuana by males. Cigarette smoking declined for 10 years and then increased in the last 5 years; males escalated their use of other tobacco products. Alcohol consumption peaked in 1983 and continued to decline. Off-campus students appeared more likely to use alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drugs and to engage in more negative alcohol and drug-related behaviors. These actions may reflect the freedom and opportunity accorded off-campus students as opposed to students who live on campus or at home. Those who live on campus or at home, belong to a Greek organization, or are female continue to show an increased tendency to attend class. Gender differences in behaviors crested in the 1977 survey. Dissimilarities between genders may continue to decline in future studies as standards for male and female behaviors evolve. This report contains a copy of the questionnaire used and four tables which summarize the data for all four surveys. (RJM)

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FIFTEEN YEAR STUDY OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS

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FIFTEEN YEAR STUDY OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE ON CAMPUS

The first campus wide survey on drug and alcohol use on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) was conducted in the Fall semester of 1977. Follow up surveys in 1983, 1987, and 1992 have resulted in the collection of data to identify changes, consistencies, and to increase confidence in this method of study.

Each administration of the survey used a variety of classes across the campus to obtain a representative sample of the students by majors, classification, and gender. The data for this fourth survey was collected in the Fall semester of 1992. MTSU is a regional public university located near a large metropolitan area from which the university draws about 30 per cent of its students. Data was analyzed use chi square analysis. The sample appeared to be a reflection of the student population as defined by the MTSU Office of Institutional Research. This sample continued the trend of the previous samples in several areas. Women constituted a larger percent of the sample (57.1%) than they did of the total student body (53.1). Sorority and fraternity members were 19.4 percent of the sample but only 8.0 percent of the total student population. Students living on campus were 32.2 percent of the sample while only 22.0 percent of the students resided on campus. This sample was consistent with the previous samples in that women, Greeks, and on campus students were over represented.

Emphasis on a healthy life style may be responsible for changes in alcohol use (see Table 1). The shift appears to be from non use to rarely. MTSU has an Alcohol Awareness campaign with special emphasis prior to homecoming and spring break. Campus groups, especially Greek organizations, are encouraged to promote alcohol education and fraternity pledges are required to attend alcohol education seminars. Fraternities at MTSU have dry rush activities. However, fraternity membership appears to significantly ($p = <.05$) increase alcohol consumption but sorority membership does not significantly increase alcohol consumption.

Age of first drink appears to be decreasing. 29.9 percent had their first drink by Age 14 and 50.2 percent between 15 and 17 years of age. 19.9 percent had their first drink at Age 18 or older. In 1977 those percents were 21.4, 59.4 and 19.2, respectively.

Students who lived off campus as compared to students who lived on campus or at home continued to show higher alcohol use. Living off campus appears to be a significant factor in alcohol use marijuana use, and positive answers to questions 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 52, 53, 54, 55, and 57, $p = <.05$.

Question 32 asked if there were enough fun, healthy alternatives to drinking on campus. Overall, the on campus and living at home students were more positive than the off campus students and females were more positive than males. Greek members were less positive. Perhaps they see their organizations fulfilling these needs or maybe they join Greek organizations because they are dissatisfied with on campus activities.

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Table 1

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

	1977 %	1983 %	1987 %	1992 %
ALL RESPONDENTS				
Yes	58.9	65.3	59.0	55.9
No	19.2	12.1	14.4	17.1
Rarely	21.9	22.6	26.6	26.6
MALES				
Yes	67.5	70.0	65.2	63.6
No	14.8	9.3	14.5	15.7
Rarely	17.7	20.7	20.2	20.2
FEMALES				
Yes	51.2	62.3	54.8	50.1
No	23.2	13.8	14.2	18.2
Rarely	25.6	23.9	31.0	31.5
MALES - GREEKS				
Yes	86.7	79.8	80.0	76.9
No	7.0	3.0	4.8	7.7
Rarely	6.3	17.2	15.2	14.1
FEMALES - GREEKS				
Yes	74.7	68.8	73.0	58.6
No	8.4	2.1	7.1	21.6
Rarely	16.8	29.1	19.9	19.8

Alcohol related behaviors continued to be related to gender with males being more likely to respond in the affirmative to Questions 18-32. There was a significant difference between males and females on these questions with the exception of Questions 22 and 24 which showed no significant difference. Greeks responded significantly different from non-Greeks on Question 18-32 except for Question 31 where Greeks were significantly less likely to have been arrested for DUI. (Table 2)

Tobacco use increased in the 1992 sample for the first time since 1977. Percents for previous surveys were 28.7, 21.1, 18.0 in 1977, 1983, and 1987 respectively. In 1993 the percent was 24.1. Females appear to be smoking at a higher rate (25.2%) than males (22.8%) although this difference was not significant. This was the first survey in which females appeared to be smoking more than males.

Marijuana use in 1992 continued to decline (17.6.%) from previous surveys in 1977 (29.9%), 1983 (22.2%), and 1987 (21.6%). The decline in marijuana use appears to be among males. In 1977 comparable figures were 39.9 percent of males and 21.1 percent of females. For 1992 the percent was 19.5 for males and 16.1 for females but this difference was not significant for the first time.

Percent of students who use drugs other than alcohol, tobacco or marijuana has remained stable over the four administrations of this survey. Table 3 show results from 1977, 1983, 1987, and 1992. There have been shifts between categories which perhaps reflects current trends. For example the increase in use of hallucinogens may be a reflection of the reported increase within the last five years of the use of LSD and other exotic agents labeled as hallucinogens. (Table 3)

There were no significant differences between Fresh, Sophomore, Juniors, and Seniors in cigarette smoking, marijuana smoking, or other drug use. However, for alcohol the junior year appeared to be the peak year for alcohol use and the "no" category declined significantly between entering college and the senior year. From Fresh to Senior the percents were 34.9, 25.3, 20.5, and 18.7 respectively for the "no" response.

Drug related behaviors are shown in Table 4. Gender was not a significant factor except for Questions 55, 58, and 59 where males were significantly more likely to answer yes. Greek membership did not significantly effect Questions 52, 53, 60, 61 or 62. Non-Greeks were significantly more likely to engage in the behaviors on Questions 54, 55, 56, 58, and 59. Only on Question 57 were Greeks more likely to respond positively, $p = <.05$. The Greek system appears to continue to be less supportive of other drug use.

First year students (Fresh) began drinking earlier than previous years and were more likely to damage property after drinking (Question 29). This may well be a reflection of the violence seen in our society.

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Table 2

ALCHOHOL RELATED BEHAVIORS

	Yes Responses		
	1977 %	1987 %	1992 %
18. Driven a car after drinking?	59.8	70.1	47.5
19. Had a hangover?	47.7	66.8	50.8
20. Been drinking while driving?	41.6	48.2	31.2
21. Driven after drinking too much?	25.6	35.9	26.1
22. Been nauseated from drinking?	38.2	58.4	42.0
23. Missed class because of a hangover?	14.7	29.7	20.3
24. Cut class after drinking?	7.3	14.9	10.2
25. Gone to class after drinking?	11.8	18.6	12.9
26. Been criticized by others for drinking?	14.3	22.8	18.5
27. Thought you might have a drinking problem?	4.3	10.6	9.4
28. Gotten into a fight after drinking?	5.7	17.4	13.0
29. Damaged property after drinking?	6.4	12.5	9.8
30. Received a lower grade because of drinking too much?	3.4	8.8	6.9
31. Been arrested for DUI?	1.8	1.6	2.6
32. Been in trouble with the law because of drinking?	3.3	6.4	6.3

Table 3

OTHER DRUG USE

	1977 %	1983 %	1987 %	1992 %
Do you use regularly or occasionally any other drug?				
YES	10.2	10.8	11.0	10.6
Stimulants	6.8	8.8	6.6	7.2
Cocaine	5.8	7.5	7.6	3.6
Depressants	5.1	5.1	2.7	3.3
Narcotics	2.2	2.8	2.1	4.2
Tranquilizers	8.3	7.0	4.8	5.8
Hallucinogens	4.1	2.9	2.8	7.7
Males	13.8	16.9	16.3	10.7
Females	7.9	6.8	7.9	10.5
On-Campus	8.9		6.6	8.0
Off-Campus	16.5		18.4	13.3
Home	7.4		6.2	8.5

Table 4

DRUG RELATED BEHAVIORS

	Yes Responses		
	1977 %	1987 %	1992 %
52. Driven a car while on drugs?	14.6	9.9	14.5
53. Been smoking dope while driving?	21.4	10.4	13.0
54. Driven after getting high on drugs?	17.8	11.0	14.0
55. Missed class while on drugs?	3.1	2.7	4.7
56. Gone to class while on drugs?	9.1	5.2	6.7
57. Been criticized by others for using drugs?	5.1	4.6	6.0
58. Thought you might have a drug problem?	.77	1.7	1.9
59. Received a lower grade due to use of drugs?	1.5	2.2	2.9
60. Been arrested for drug related offense?	1.6	0.5	1.3
61. Been in trouble with the law because of drugs?	1.9	0.8	1.6
62. Overdosed?	.6	.4	1.3

CONCLUSIONS

Alcohol and drug use at MTSU has changed very little in fifteen years. The most noticeable change has been the reduction in marijuana use by males and the decline in cigarette smoking for ten years and then the increase within the last five years. The increase in use of snuff, cigars and chewing tobacco has been in the males. There is some indication that alcohol consumption peaked in 1983 and is continuing to decline. Students who live off campus appear to be more likely to use alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other drugs as well as engage in more negative alcohol and drug related behaviors. This may be a reflection of the freedom and opportunity accorded off campus students as opposed to students who live on campus or at home. Living on campus or at home, being in a Greek organization, or being female continues to show an increased tendency to attend class. Gender differences in behaviors were more prominent in 1977. These differences may continue to decline in future studies as standards for male and female behaviors change or move toward a single standard.

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M.T.S.U. QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What is the College of your major? If undecided, leave blank.
a) Basic & Applied Sciences b) Business c) Education
d) Mass Communications e) Liberal Arts

2. What is your classification?
a) Freshman b) Sophomore c) Junior d) Senior e) Graduate

3. Gender a) Male b) Female

4. While at school, do you live a) On-campus b) Off-Campus c) At home

5. Do you belong to a sorority or fraternity? a) Yes b) No

6. Does (did) your father use alcohol? a) Yes b) No c) rarely

7. Does (did) your mother use alcohol? a) Yes b) No c) rarely

8 Did friends in high school use alcohol? a) Yes b) No

9. Do you ever use alcohol? (If answer is No, skip to Question 18)
a) Yes b) No c) On rare occasions only

10. At what age did you first drink?
a) Under 10 b) 10-14 c) 15-17 d) 18-20 e) Over 21

11. What type of drink do you prefer?
a) Beer b) Mixed drinks c) Wine d) Straight liquor e) other

12. How often do you drink? a) Less than once a week b) Once a week
c) Twice a week d) Three times a week e) Four times a week or more

13. How much beer do you usually consume when drinking beer?
a) 1-2 b) 3-4 c) 5-6 d) more than 6 e) None

14. How much wine do you usually consume when drinking wine?
a) 1-2 glasses b) 3-4 glasses c) 5-6 glasses d) More than 6 e) None

15. How many mixed drinks do you usually consume when drinking mixed drinks?
a) 1-2 b) 3-4 drinks c) 5-6 drinks d) more than 6 e) none

16. Why do you drink alcoholic beverages? a) To relax or to have fun
b) Enjoy the taste c) For escape d) To get drunk e) It's expected

17. How often do you drink alone? a) Never b) Sometimes c) A lot

PLEASE MARK THE APPROPRIATE ANSWER: a) Yes b) No
While a student at MTSU, or during the past twelve (12) months, have you

18. Driven a car after drinking?

19. Had a hangover?

20. Been drinking while driving?

21. Driven after drinking too much?

22. Been nauseated from drinking?

23. Missed class because of a hangover?

24. Cut class after drinking?

25. Gone to class after drinking?

26. Been criticized by others for drinking?

27. Thought you might have a drinking problem?

28. Gotten into a fight after drinking?

29. Damaged property after drinking?

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30. Received a lower grade because of drinking too much?

31. Been arrested for DWI?

32. Been in trouble with the law because of drinking?

33. Are there enough fun, healthy alternatives to drinking on campus?
a) Yes b) No

34. Do you smoke cigarettes? a) Yes b) No
35. a) Less than a pack a day b) More than a pack a day c) none

36. Do you use other tobacco products? a) Yes b) No
37. snuff a) Yes b) No
38. chewing tobacco a) Yes b) No
39. cigars a) Yes b) No

40. Do you smoke marijuana? a) Yes b) No
41. Joints per week:
a) 1-2 b) 3-5 c) 6-10 d) 11 or more e) none

42. Do you use regularly or occasionally any other drug? a) Yes b) No
(If answer is No, skip to Question 52)

43. If you answered yes, please indicate where you had your first experience with drugs. a) At home b) At friend's home c) At a party d) In automobile e) Other

44. At what age did you first use drugs?
a) Under 10 b) Age 10-14 c) Age 15-17 d) Age 18-21 e) Over 21

45. Do you use stimulants (Uppers, amphetamines, bennies, etc.)?
a) daily b) weekly c) monthly d) rarely or occasionally e) never

46. Do you use cocaine, crack? a) daily b) weekly c) monthly d) rarely or occasionally e) never

47. Do you use depressants (Barbituates, sopars, red birds, yellow jackets, blue angels, etc.)? a) daily b) weekly c) monthly d) rarely or occasionally e) never

48. Do you use narcotics (Morphine, heroin, codeine, demerol, dilaudid, etc.)? a) daily b) weekly c) monthly d) rarely or occasionally e) never

49. Do you use tranquilizers (Librium, Valium, Equanil, etc.)
a) daily b) weekly c) monthly d) rarely or occasionally e) never

50. Do you use hallucinogens (LSD, Peyote, Mescaline, PCP, etc.)?
a) daily b) weekly c) monthly d) rarely or occasionally e) never

51. Why do you use drugs? a) To relax b) To have fun c) For escape d) To get high e) It's expected

MARK THE APPROPRIATE ANSWER, a) Yes b) No
While a student at MTSU, or during the past twelve (12) months, have you

52. Driven a car while on drugs?

53. Been smoking dope while driving?

54. Driven after getting high on drugs?

55. Missed class while on drugs?

56. Gone to class while on drugs?

57. Been criticized by others for using drugs?

58. Thought you might have a drug problem?

59. Received a lower grade due to use of drugs?

60. Been arrested for drug related offense?

61. Been in trouble with the law because of drugs?

62. Overdosed?

COMMENTS: If you wish to make anonymous written or verbal comments, please contact Dr. Jeannette Heritage
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